

STATINTL

● It fell to Frederick E. Nolting Jr., our ambassador to Vietnam from 1961 to 1963, to correct Washington's official negligence, and mark the first anniversary of the violent death of Ngo Dinh Diem, a former ally and "a brave man who died for his country a year ago." In an eloquent letter to the public prints, Mr. Nolting puts Diem's sacrifice in its historical perspective: "Events in Vietnam since his overthrow and assassination last November throw light upon some of the problems he faced during his eight years at its helm. His government's achievements under difficult conditions—schools, roads, hospitals, airstrips, land reform, the creation of defense forces and establishment of the will to resist—still stand as major obstacles to Communist victory there. . . . Diem was a patriot, and I am sure that his wish for his people now, as it was throughout the years I knew him, is for their success in the struggle for national survival, political progress and human dignity."

CPYRGHT